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R 311100Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7334

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 10079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT JULY 24-30, 1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I. SUMMARY

1. IN MR-1, WHILE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS DECLINED SLIGHTLY, FIGHTING IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI PROVINCES CONTINUED. THE ENEMY MADE A NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS TO INTERDICT LOCS, INCLUDING THE RAIL AND ROAD LINKS BETWEEN DANANG AND HUE, BOTH OF WHICH WERE BRIEFLY CLOSED. HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN DUC DUC AND THUONG DUC DISTRICTS AND THE SITUATION REMAINS FLUID. ANOTHER ROCKET ATTACK ON DANANG AIR BASE KILLED SIX AND WOUNDED 24, MOSTLY CIVILIANS. IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE ATTACKS WERE WIDESPREAD, WITH CONCENTRATIONS IN BINHSON, SON TINH, AND TU NGHIA DISTRICTS. THERE WERE ALSO ROCKET ATTACKS ON QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD AND THREE DISTRICT TOWNS. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-2 REMAINED HIGH, ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS DOWN SLIGHTLY. THE FIGHTING IN BINH DINH PROVINCE FOLLOWED A GENERAL PATTERN OF INTENSE ABFS FOLLOWED BY GROUND ASSAULTS AND HAS GENERATED AN ESTIMATED 60,000 REFUGEES. MAJOR THRUSTS INCLUDED ATTACKS ON PHU CU PASS AND NHONG PASS AND IN PHU MY AND PHU CHAT DISTRICTS. INCIDENTS INCREASED IN KONTUM PROVINCE, WHERE THE ATTACK ON MANG BUC OUTPOST BEGAN ON JULY 25 AND CONTINUES. THE SEVERELY MAULED 44TH REGIMENT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE 45TH REGIMENT. ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU PROVINCE WAS DOWN AND WAS MARKED BY FOUR BRIEF LOC INTERDICTIONS. ENEMY ACTIONS AGAINST GVN TROOP POSITIONS AND POPULATION AREAS CONTINUED IN PHU YEN PROVINCE. SAPPERS ATTACKED THE TUY HOA DISTRICT OFFICE FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO WEEKS, DESTROYING IT. IN MR-3 THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY WAS THE LOWEST SINCE EARLY MAY. GVN CASUALTIES WERE DOWN, WHILE ENEMY CASUALTIES DOUBLED. IN BINH DUONG THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE, THE COMMUNISTS STILL OCCUPY OP 82 AND THE RACH BAP AREA. THE 322 RF BATTALION SCORED ANOTHER SUCCESS WHEN IT ENCOUNTERED A HEAVY WEAPONS UNIT OF THE NVA 165 REGIMENT: 25 OF THE ENEMY WERE KILLED AND SEVERAL WEAPONS WERE CAPTURED. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE, LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN

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ATTEMPTS TO CLEAR THE BAO BINH AREA, AND INTERDICTION OF ROUTE 2 CONTINUES. THREE HELICOPTERS WERE SHOT DOWN IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE. SIX CREWMEN WERE KILLED, AND ONE HELICOPTER WAS DESTROYED. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BRIEFED IN MR -4 WAS DOWN, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTHERN DELTA HIGH POINT ENTERED ITS THIRD WEEK. GENERALLY, THE NORTHERN DELTA WAS QUIET, BUT GROUND ATTACKS IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE INCREASED. FOUR OBS WERE OVERRUN, ON OF WHICH COST THE ENEMY 35 DEAD. IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, AN

AIR AMERICA-LEASED C-123 CARGO PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER NHON NINH VILLAGE IN THE TRI PHAP AREA. A MC/NVA UNIT, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN INFILTRATING FROM CAMBODIA, TRIPPED A MECHANICAL AMBUSH IN CHAU DOC. THIRTY-THREE COMMUNISTS WERE KILLED AND AN RF BATTALION SUBSEQUENTLY CAPTURED ANOTHER 31. IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCES WHERE THE GVN SEEMS TO BE TAKING THE INITIATIVE IN SOME AREAS AND HOLDING ITS OWN ELSEWHERE, ACTION WAS HEAVIEST IN HIEU LE DISTRICT. SINCE JULY 22N SIX OBS HAVE BEEN LOST IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, WHILE IN LA XUYEN PROVINCE THE TRA THE OB CONTINUES TO HOLD DESPITE REPEATED ABFS AND FOUR GROUND ATTACKS. THERE WAS ONLY ONE SERIOUS INCIDENT IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, IN WHICH A GROUND ATTACK ON A VILLAGE LEFT TWO POLICEMEN AND SIXTEEN VC/NVA DEAD. THE ICCS HAS HELD NO FURTHER PLENARIES SINCE JULY 17. THE POLES COMPLAINED ABOUT GVN INTERFERENCE WITH THE POLES' GUEST LIST FOR THEIR JULY 22 RECEPTION, TO WHICH ANTI-GVN SELF-STYLED "THIRD FORCE" POLITICAL FIGURES AS WELL AS A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF "PRG" AND DRV DEL MEMBERS HAD BEEN INVITED. FOR THE ELEVENTH CONSECUTIVE TIME THE DRV/"PRG" DID NOT APPEAR FOR THE FPJMT SESSION. THE TPJMC BOYCOTT ALSO CONTINUES. THE SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT WAS HIT BY GROUND FIRE OVER A "PRG" CONTROLLED AREA SOUTH OF AN LOC IN BINH LONG PROVINCE, BUT NO ONE ON BOARD WAS INJURED. THE "PRG" ACCUSED THE GVN OF STAGING THE INCIDENT.

PART II--FPJMT, TPJMC, AND RELATED MATTERS.

1. INTRANSIGENCE OF THE COMMUNIST SIDE CONTINUED INTO THE SIXTH WEEK AS THE DRV/"PRG" DELS AGAIN BOYCOTTED THE FPJMT/TPJMC FORA. THERE WAS ALSO AN INCIDENT OF GROUND FIRE DIRECTED AGAINST THE SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT. ON THE MORNING OF JULY 29, THE SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT RECEIVED GROUND FIRE WHILE OVER A "PRG"-OCCUPIED AREA SOUTH OF AN LOC IN BINH LONG PROVINCE. ALTHOUGH ONE OF THE TWO HELICOPTERS WAS HIT, THERE WERE NO INJURIES

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TO CREW OR PASSENGERS, WHO INCLUDED SIX "PRG" PERSONNEL. THE FLIGHT RETURNED TO SAIGON RATHER THAN PROCEED ON. BG HIEP OF THE GVN TPJMC HAS SENT A PROTEST TO THE "PRG" DEL, POINTING OUT THAT THIS INCIDENT AGAIN DEMONSTRATES THE NEED FOR THE SAFETY GUARANTEE WHICH THE "PRG" REFUSES TO GIVE. HE INTENDS, NEVERTHELESS, TO FLY THE NEXT SCHEDULED FLIGHT ON AUGUST 1. THE "PRG" HAS REACTED IN ITS USUAL FASHION, ACCUSING THE GVN OF INTENTIONALLY FIRING ON ITS OWN CRAFT IN A "PREMEDITATED TRICK" TO FURTHER ITS "SCHEME TO UNDERMINE THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES" OF ITS DEL.

2. THIS INCIDENT CLEARLY ILLUSTRATES THE CONTRASTING APPROACHES AND ATTITUDES OF THE TWO SIDES TOWARD THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE GVN CONTINUES TO PROVIDE THIS TWICE-WEEKLY FLIGHT FOR ITS AVOWED ENEMY, NOTWITHSTANDING THAT ITS CONTINUANCE UNDER PREVAILING CONDITIONS IN NO WAY CONTRIBUTES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION

OF THE AGREEMENT. STRIDENT IN ITS INSISTENCE ON ITS RIGHTS, THE
"PRG" ACKNOWLEDGES NO RESPONSIBILITIES. ALTHOUGH INSISTING THAT
THE JMC HELICOPTERS FLY IN THE PRESCRIBED CORRIDOR AT A HEIGHT
OF ONLY 1,000 METERS SO THAT THEIR ORANGE MARKINGS ARE CLEARLY
VISIBLE FROM THE GROUND, THE "PRG" HAS STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO
PROVIDE THE SAFETY GUARANTEE REQUESTED BY THE GVN AFTER ONE
OF ITS CREWMEN WAS KILLED IN A SIMILAR INCIDENT DURING THE
PRISONER RELEASES LAST MARCH.

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R 311100Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7335

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 10079

PART III - MR-1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 174 COMMUNIST
CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. THIS SLIGHT DECLINE FROM LAST WEEK'S
HIGH FIGURE OF 205 VIOLATIONS CONTINUES TO REFLECT THE ENEMY
ATTACKS IN QUANG NAM AND QUANG NGAI. DANANG AIRBASE WAS ROCKETED
FOR THE SECOND TIME SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. VNAF CONTINUED TO FLY
AIR STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF THE GVN POSITIONS IN QUANG NAM. GVN
CASUALTIES : 118 KIA, 498 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 345 KIA, 5
RETURNEES. (NOTE: GVN CASUALTY FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE CASUALTIES
SUSTAINED BY THE 2ND INFANTRY REGIMENT, ARVN 3RD INFANTRY
DIVISION, IN QUANG NAM. THESE CASUALTY FIGURES ARE NOT YET
AVAILABLE.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WAS LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN QUANG TRI AND THUA THIEN
THE ENEMY THRICE MINED THE RAILROAD. ONE TIME THE MINES WERE
DISCOVERED AND REMOVED; THE OTHER TWO TIMES THEY EXPLODED AND
TRAFFIC WAS INTERRUPTED. AS OF JULY 30 THE RAILROAD WAS
OPERATING BETWEEN DA NANG AND HUE.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUED IN SOUTHERN DUC DUC
DISTRICT AS TWO BATTALIONS OF THE ARVN 2ND REGIMENT, 3RD INFANTRY
DIVISION ATTEMPTED TO ADVANCE TOWARDS ANTENNA VALLEY FROM WHICH
COMMUNIST FORCES HAD DRIVEN GVN TROOPS THE WEEK BEFORE. AFTER
SERIOUS CLASHES WITH NVA TROOPS ON JULY 24 AND 25, THE 2ND REGT
WITHDREW TO A BLOCKING POSITION WEST OF DAI LOC AND WAS REPLACED
BY THE 12TH RANGER BN WHICH HAS ASSUMED A RELATIVELY STABLE
FORWARD POSITION SOUTH OF THE DUC DUC DISTRICT SEAT. ON JULY 25
AND 26 THE 54TH REGT OF THE 1ST INF. DIVISION WAS SENT FROM THUA
THIEN TO QUANG NAM TO STRENGTHEN THE 3RD DIVISION IN QUANG NAM. IT
IS THE OPINION OF LT GEN NGO QUANG TRUONG, I CORPS COMMANDER,

THAT ONE OF THE ENEMY'S PRINCIPAL GOALS IN THIS ACTION IS TO RETAKE
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AREAS LOST TO THE GVN IN THE ARIZONA TERRITORY AND ON GO NOI
ISLAND.

4. ON JULY 29 THE ENEMY SHELLED THE GVN DISTRICT CAPITAL OF THUONG
DUC TO THE IMMEDIATE NORTHWEST OF DUC DUC WITH AN AS YET UNKNOWN
NUMBER OF ROUNDS AND WOUNDED THE SUB-SECTOR COMMANDER. THEY ALSO
ATTACKED THE OUTLYING STRONG POINTS OF WHICH ONE-HALF (3 OF THE
PF AND 2 OF THE 79TH RANGER BN) ARE PRESUMED LOST. DETAILS OF THE
ACTION AROUND THUONG DUC WERE FRAGMENTARY AND UNVERIFIED AS OF
THE MORNING OF 30 JULY.

5. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK THE ENEMY FIRED
70 ROCKETS AT DA NANG AIRBASE ON JULY 29TH, KILLING 6 AND
WOUNDING 24, ALMOST ALL CIVILIANS. A BRIDGE ON THE ROAD TO THUONG
DUC WAS DAMAGED, AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON ONE ON THE
ROAD TO DUC DUC, AND ONE SPAN OF THE NAM BRIDGE ON Q.L. 1 NORTH
OF DA NANG WAS DESTROYED BY WATER SAPPERS AND CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.
HOI AN, THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, WAS ALSO MORTARED. COMMUNIST
GUNNERS ALSO SHELLED THE DISTRICT TOWNS OF DAI LOC AND DUY
XUYEN DURING THE WEEK.

6. IN QUANG TIN COMMUNIST ATTACKS WERE FEW. IN QUANG NGAI
COMMUNIST ATTACKS OCCURRED THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, BUT WERE
CONCENTRATED IN EASTERN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS AND IN
NORTHWESTERN TU NGHIA DISTRICT. QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD WAS ROCKETED
AS WERE BINH SON, SON HA, AND MO DUC DISTRICT TOWNS. SMALL-SCALE
ATTACKS INCREASED THE PRESSURE ON THE GVN-CONMGOLZPAREJS # IN
EASTERN MO D7C AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS TOWARDS THE END OF THE
REPORTING PERIOD.

7. ICCS:

THERE WAS NO ICCS ACTIVITY IN REGION I. IN ICCS REGION II THERE
WERE 4 OBSERVATIONS. TWO BY THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS TOGETHER
(INCLUDING THE ROCKETING OF THE DA NANG AIR BASE), ONE BY THE
INDONESIANS ALONE, AND ONE BY THE IRANIANS ALONE. ON JULY 25
THE QUANG NAM PROVINCE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN LED A DELEGATION OF
ABOUT 20 TO THE HOI AN ICCS TEAM SITE TO PRESENT A PETITION
PROTESTING THE ENEMY ATTACKS IN DUC DUC. THE POLISH TEAMSITE
LEADER ACCEPTED THE PETITION ON BEHALF OF THE ICCS IF HOA AN.
THE EXCHANGE WAS POLITE IN TONE AND WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.
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NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 10079; #PARA. 6. AS
RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 NIC-01 DPW-01 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 311100Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7336

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 SAIGON 10079

PART IV - MR-2

1. SUMMARY: THE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-2 REMAINED HIGH WITH SEVERE FIGHTING REPORTED IN BINH DINH PROVINCE AND AT MANG BUK OUTPOST IN KONTUM. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BRIEFED ROSE SLIGHTLY TO 179 OVER LAST WEEK'S 156. FRIENDLY CASUALTY TOTALS WERE UP SLIGHTLY TO 1,206 (113 KIA) OVER LAST WEEK'S 1,163 WHILE THE COMMUNISTS'S DECREASED FROM 618 TO 365 KIA. BINH DINH REPORTED THE MOST INCIDENTS BY FAR (83) AS COMMUNIST FORCES CONDUCTED A COORDINATED ASSAULT THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE THE OPENING ROUND OF THE NEXT PHASE OF THE VC/NVA SUMMER OFFENSIVE. MANG BUK OUTPOST IN KONTUM PROVINCE WAS SUBJECTED TO OVER 2,000 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED MORTAR AND ARTILLERY. FRIENDLY AIR STRIKES INCREASED 30 PERCENT, UP TO 232 AS OPPOSED TO 187 REPORTED A WEEK AGO.

2. BINH DINH: ON JULY 25, THE NVA/VC INITIATED WHAT APPEARS TO BE A NEW PHASE OF THEIR SUMMER OFFENSIVE, EXTENDING DETERMINED GROUND ASSAULTS PRECEDED BY INTENSE ATTACKS-BY-FIRE ON GVN TROOP POSITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE. THE MAJOR THRUSTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE STRATEGIC PHU CU AND NHONG PASSES AND IN SOUTHEASTERN PHU MY AND NORTHEASTERN PHU CAT DISTRICTS. IN SOME OF THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING, ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND NVA REGT ATTEMPTED TO OVERWHELM THE DEFENDERS OF NHONG PASS (42ND RANGER BN) ON THE 28TH, BUT WERE BEATEN BACK BY SUPPORTING "SPOOKY" AND GUNSHIP AIR SUPPORT, WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES (AT LEAST 40 NVA KIA). ON JULY 26, 4 ENEMY LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS ASSAULTED RF UNITS IN SOUTHEASTERN PHU MY. PHU MY DISTRICT TOWN HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO DAILY ATTACKS-BY-FIRE SINCE THE 26TH. THE 6TH RANGER GROUP CONTROLLING PHU CU PASS HAS RECEIVED ENEMY ASSAULTS OF UP TO BATTALION SIZE. THE COMMUNISTS FIRED OVER 500 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE ON THE 6TH'S HEADQUARTERS ON THE 27TH, DESTROYING ITS AMMUNITION STORAGE FACILITIES. THE CURRENT ENEMY OFFENSIVE HAS THUS FAR GENERATED 60,000 NEW WAR VICTIMS. THE MAJORITY OF THEM FROM THE ALMOST-ABANDONED PHU MY DISTRICT CAPITAL ARE RESIDING IN PHU CAT DISTRICT TOWN. BINH DINH PROVINCE HAS REQUESTED AN EMERGENCY ALLOTMENT OF SEVEN DAYS RICE FROM THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL

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WELFARE IN SAIGON. THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE REDEPLOYING AND RALLYING HIS FORCES TO MEET THE CURRENT THREAT. CASUALTY TOTALS ARE SKETCHY, BUT PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES INDICATE FRIENDLY LOSSES TO BE 61 KIA, 174 WIA, AND 72 MIA, AS COMPARED WITH KNOWN ENEMY LOSSES OF 47 KIA.

3. KONTUM: TOTAL INCIDENTS INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY THIS WEEK - 83 AS COMPARED TO 48 DURING THE LAST REPORTED PERIOD. COMMUNIST ATTACKS-BY-FIRE WERE MOST PREVALENT. THE EXPECTED ATTACK ON MANG BUK OUTPOST COMMENCED JULY 25 AND IS CONTINUING. SECTOR S-2 MAINTAINS THAT MANG BUK HAS RECEIVED OVER 2,000 ROUNDS OF VARIOUS ORDNANCE IN FORTY SEPARATE SHELLINGS. THE COMMUNISTS CONDUCTED A SUCCESSFUL GROUND ATTACK ON THE OUTPOST'S OP #4. ENEMY UNITS EMPLOYED APPEAR TO BE ONLY LOCAL FORCES SUPPORTED BY THE NVA 40TH ARTY REGT, ALTHOUGH AN NVA INFANTRY REGIMENT IS IN THE AREA. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN LIGHT. THE GVN HAS REACTED WITH INTENSIFIED AIR STRIKES. AN EVACUATION OPERATION FOR THE CAMP'S 823 MILITARY DEFENDERS (ELEMENTS OF THE 281ST RF BN) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, WAS POSTPONED BY GENERAL TOAN AT THE LAST MOMENT. THE 44TH ARVN REGIMENT, SEVERELY MAULED IN RECENT FIGHTING NE OF KONTUM CITY, WHICH RENDERED TWO BATTALIONS COMBAT INEFFECTIVE, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THE 45TH REGT. AT 1615 HOURS ON JULY 30 APPROXIMATELY 15 ROUNDS OF EITHER 105 HOWITZER OR 122MM ROCKET FIRE IMPACTED NEAR THE KONTUM CITY AIRPORT.

4. PLEIKU: REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS DOWN SLIGHTLY THIS WEEK; THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION OCCURRING ALONG QL-19 WEST AND QL-14 SOUTH OF PLEIKU CITY. SNIPER FIRE, ENEMY SHELLINGS AND SMALL UNIT ACTIONS INTERRUPTED FLOW OF TRAFFIC ON FOUR OCCASIONS, BUT ONLY BRIEFLY. OTHER INCIDENTS INVOLVED A SERIES OF LIGHT GROUND CONTACTS IN THANH AN DISTRICT SOUTHWEST OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. THANH AN DISTRICT CAPITAL WAS SHELLED ON THE 23RD OF JULY WITH NO FRIENDLY CASUALTIES.

5. PHU YEN: THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED INTENSIFIED ACTIVITY AGAINST GVN TROOP POSITIONS AND POPULATED AREAS FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK. APPROXIMATELY 80 MORTAR ROUNDS WERE FIRED DURING ELEVEN DIFFERENT ATTACKS-BY-FIRE. HARASSMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS HAS NOT ABATED. SAPPER SQUADS AGAIN ATTACKED TUY HOA'S DISTRICT OFFICES, COMPLETELY DESTROYING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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BUILDINGS WHICH HAD BEEN 60 PERCENT DAMAGED ONLY LAST WEEK. TWO LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (ONE VILLAGE CHIEF AND ONE HAMLET CHIEF) WERE ASSASSINATED. GVN FORCES PERFORMED EFFECTIVELY IN A SERIES OF AMBUSHES AGAINST ENEMY PATROLS.

6. KHANH HOA/CAM RANH: THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY DECLINED SOMEWHAT THIS WEEK, AFTER LAST WEEK'S HIGHPOINT. COMMUNIST SAPPERS SUCCESSFULLY PENETRATED THE NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING CENTER IN CAM RANH ON THE 27TH, WOUNDING 4 POLICEMEN AND LIGHTLY DAMAGING THE FACILITIES. A MILITARY AND A CIVILIAN TRUCK WERE ATTACKED BY B-40 ROCKETS IN TWO SEPARATE AMBUSHES ON QL-1. THE DUC MY TRAINING CENTER RECEIVED 10 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKET FIRE ON THE 29TH, SUSTAINING ONLY MINOR CASUALTIES.

7. BINH THUAN: THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY REMAINED LOW THIS WEEK. AN ESTIMATED PLATOON-SIZE VC FORCE SURPRISED A PLATOON OF THE 2/274TH RF COMPANY GUARDING A HAMLET HEADQUARTERS IN HAM THUAN DISTRICT KILLING 5 OF ITS MEMBERS. THE PROVINCE CHIEF JAILED THE BATTALION COMMANDER FOR THE POOR PERFORMANCE OF HIS UNIT.

8. ICCS: NOTHING SIGNIFICANT TO REPORT.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 SAIGON 10079

PART V - MR-3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED TO FOLLOW THE GENERAL PATTERN OF THE PAST THREE WEEKS, WITH COMBAT ACTION STILL CONCENTRATED IN BINH DUONG AND LONG KHANH. A RELATIVE CALM EXISTS AFTER THE STORMY MID-MAY THROUGH JUNE PERIOD, BUT INDICATORS OF APPROACHING MAJOR NVA/VC ACTIONS ARE RIFE AND SENIOR RVNAF OFFICERS FEEL THAT THE NEXT "PHASE" OF ENEMY OFFENSIVE MOVES WILL BEGIN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. PARTICULAR CONCERN IS EXPRESSED REGARDING REPORTED MOVEMENTS OF 5TH NVA DIVISION ELEMENTS FROM CAMBODIA TOWARDS TAY NINH.

2. MILITARY INCIDENTS RECORDED BY MR 3 HQ FOR THIS REPORTING PERIOD TOTALLED 179, DOWN FROM LAST WEEK'S 208, AND THE LOWEST WEEKLY FIGURE SINCE EARLY MAY. HOWEVER, THE OVERALL WEEKLY INCIDENT AVERAGE FOR JULY (202) WAS THE REGION'S SECOND HIGHEST IN OVER A YEAR, SURPASSED ONLY BY THE JUNE AVERAGE (265). BINH DUONG PROVINCE AGAIN SAW THE MOST ACTIVITY WITH 80 INCIDENTS (76 LAST WEEK), FOLLOWED BY LONG KHANH PROVINCE WITH 28 INCIDENTS (SAME AS LAST WEEK). MR 3 HQ REPORTED 35 GROUND ATTACKS (28 LAST PERIOD), 89 ATTACKS BY FIRE (92 LAST PERIOD), AND 8 COMBINED GROUND AND ABFS (14 LAST PERIOD). TWENTY-SIX MININGS, ONE ASSASSINATION, AND 14 SMALL ARMS HARASSMENTS WERE ALSO REPORTED.

3. NVA/VC GUNNERS REPORTEDLY FIRED 1,080 ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ROUNDS COMPARED TO LAST WEEK'S 1,734, WHILE RVNAF ARTILLERY FIRINGS DROPPED FROM 26,988 TO 17,036. VNAF LISTS 352 FIXED WING AIRCRAFT SORTIES AND 293 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES FOR THIS PERIOD, CLAIMING 389 NVA/VC KILLED AND 33 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS.

ON JULY 26, THREE UH-1H HELICOPTERS FLYING SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR THE 81ST AIRBORNE RANGER GROUP WERE HIT AND BROUGHT DOWN BY AA ROUNDS NW OF XUYEN MOC (PHUOC TUY PROVINCE). ONE HELICOPTER WAS DESTROYED AND THE OTHER TWO DAMAGED. SIX CREW MEMBERS (INCLUDING THREE PILOTS) WERE KIA AND TWO WIA. ON JULY 29, TWO UH-1H CRAFT FLYING SIX COMMUNIST TPJMC MEMBERS TO LOC NINH RECEIVED NVA/VC FIRE NEAR THE BINH DUONG/BINH LONG BORDER. ONE HELICOPTER SUSTAINED LIGHT DAMAGE, BUT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

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4. GVN CASUALTIES OF 40 KIA, 193 WIA, AND 13 MIA WERE LOWER THAN LAST WEEK'S 55 KIA, 271 WIA, AND 17 MIA, BUT COMMUNIST LOSSES CLIMBED FROM 56 KIA AND 7 RALLIERS TO 121 KIA, 2 CIA, AND 12 RALLIERS.

5. IN BINH DUONG, NVA FORCES REMAIN LODGED IN THE OUTPOST 82-RACH BAP AREA, WHILE RVNAF CONTINUES TO ROTATE FRESH UNITS INTO THE COMBAT ZONE TO CONTAIN THE COMMUNIST UNITS AND HOPEFULLY TO WEAR THEM DOWN WITH ARTILLERY, AIR STRIKES, AND SMALL-UNIT INFANTRY TACTICS. ON JULY 23, BINH DUONG'S HIGHLY-RESPECTED 322 RF BN SCORED ANOTHER SUCCESS WHEN IT ENCOUNTERED A HEAVY WEAPONS UNIT OF THE NVA 165 REGT AND KILLED 25 OF THE ENEMY IN THE ENSUING CONTACT, ALSO CAPTURING A NUMBER OF WEAPONS. THE 322ND ITSELF LOST BUT ONE KIA AND SEVEN WIA.

6. IN LONG KHANH, REGULAR CONTACT CONTINUES WITH ENEMY ELEMENTS NEAR THE RUNG LA RESETTLEMENT SITE ON ROUTE 1 AND IN THE BAO BINH AREA, SOME 10 KMS SE OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF XUAN LOC. THOUGH FOUR GVN BATTALIONS (CURRENTLY TWO RANGER BNS AND TWO RF BNS), WITH AIR AND ARTILLERY SUPPORT, HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENTLY ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE BAO BINH AREA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND CONTINUED ENEMY INTERDICTION OF ROUTE 2 IN SOUTHERN LONG KHANH AND NORTHERN PHUOC TUY PERMITS THE COMMUNISTS EASY PASSAGE BETWEEN THEIR MAY TAO AND HAT DICH BASE AREAS.

7. ICCS: INDODEL REPORTED THAT ONLY TWO "OBSERVATIONS" HAD BEEN CONDUCTED THIS WEEK, BOTH BY INDODEL ALONE. THE TWO TRIPS, BOTH UNDERTAKEN ON JULY 22, CONSISTED OF EXAMINING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A TERRORIST INCIDENT IN LONG AN AND WITNESSING A ROUTINE DESTRUCTION OF AMMUNITION AT LONG BINH. INDODEL ALSO NOTED THAT POLDEL, HAVING COMPLETED THEIR PERSONNEL ROTATION, HAVE RETURNED DELEGATES TO THE SUB-REGIONAL TEAM SITES AT TAN AN, VUNG TAU AND XUAN LOC.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 AID-20

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 NIC-01 DPW-01 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 311100Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7338

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VI - MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: THE SOUTHERN DELTA HIGHPOINT ENTERED ITS THIRD WEEK, ALTHOUGH ACTIVITY DROPPED SLIGHTLY. KIEN GIANG PROVINCE REMAINED ACTIVE, BUT GVN APPEARS TO BE TAKING THE INITIATIVE IN SOME AREAS OF THE PROVINCE AND HOLDING ITS OWN ELSEWHERE. THE NORTHERN DELTA REMAINED GENERALLY QUIET, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL GROUND ATTACKS IN DINH TUONG. MR4 G-2 CONTINUES TO VIEW CURRENT ACTIVITY AS A NORMAL MID-MONTH HIGHPOINT, BUT NOTES THAT LEVEL OF FIGHTING HAS BEEN HIGHER AND ENDURED LONGER THAN IN ANY OTHER MONTH THIS YEAR. THERE WERE 487 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS THIS WEEK (572 LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 75 GROUND ATTACKS (73), 304 ABF'S (353), 93 HARASSMENTS (127), ONE INFILTRATION (NONE), 3 SABOTAGE (7) AND 11 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (10). GVN LOSSES DECLINED TO 231 KIA (318), 883 WIA (927), 120 MIA (324), AND 7 CREW-SERVED (25) AND 164 INDIVIDUAL (839 WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 735 VC/NVA KIA (667), 67 PRISONERS AND SUPECTS CAPTURED (77), AND 38 CREW-SERVED (30) AND 232 INDIVIDUAL (176) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE REMAINED THE SAME AS LAST WEEK, BUT GROUND ATTACKS INCREASED. FOUR OB'S IN CHAU THANH AND CAI BE DISTRICTS WERE OVERRUN OR ABANDONED, THE OVERRUN OF NGOC CHUA OB IN CAI BE (D) COSTING VC/NVA ATTACKERS 35 KIA. RACH DAO BRIDGE ON ROUTE 30 IN GIAO DUC (D) WAS BLOWN UP, TEMPORARILY HALTING TRAFFIC TO CAO LANH. KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REMAINED QUIET WITH ONLY ONE GROUND ATTACK REPORTED AGAINST THE THUONG LAC VILLAGE OFFICE 600 METERS FROM HONG NGU DISTRICT HQ. THERE WERE ONLY 4 ABF'S, ALL AGAINST OB'S. KIEN PHONG S-2 BELIEVES PRESENT LULL IS DUE TO TROOP REPLENISHMENT AND THAT FIGHTING WILL SOON RECUR IN KIEN VAN AND HONG NGU DISTRICTS. IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, VC/NVA NOW CONTROL A TEN-KILOMETER STRETCH OF THE CUNG CANAL IN NHON NINH (V), KIEN BINH (D). THERE ARE 1600 REFUGEES IN KIEN BINH DISTRICT TOWN (INCLUDING 884 REFUGEES ORIGINALLY FROM TRI PHAP VILLAGE). TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 11TH REGIMENT/7TH ARVN DIVISION WERE MOVED FROM THE CAMBODIAN BORDER AREA TO REPLACE THE 10TH REGIMENT IN KIEN BINH (D). AN AIR AMERICA-LEASED C-123 CARGO PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN OVER NHON NINH VILLAGE, REPORTEDLY BY AN SA-7

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MISSILE. IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE, A VC/NVA UNIT (PRESUMABLY AN INFILTRATION GROUP) TRIPPED A MECHANICAL AMBUSH IN EXTREME WESTERN TINH BIEN DISTRICT, LOSING 33 KIA. IN A SUBSEQUENT SEARCH THE 449TH RF BATTALION CAPTURED 31 OTHER VC/NVA.

(C) KIEN GIANG PROVINCE: ALMOST HALF OF THE VC/NVA-INITIATED

INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN HIEU LE DISTRICT. ONE OB WAS ABANDONED WITHOUT CASUALTIES, BUT OTHER GVN POSITIONS HELD. AN EL VENT OF THE 476 RF BATTALION SUFFERED 10 KILLED (INCLUDING THE COMPANY COMMANDER) AND 14 WOUNDED, BUT HELD THE OB IN TAN BANG (V), KILLING 29 VC/NVA. GVN INITIATIVES WERE CONCENTRATED IN KIEN TAN (D) IN AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE VC/NVA PRESSURE ON POPULATED AREAS. ALTHOUGH TWO OB'S IN KIEN TAN WERE ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, SECTOR FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE SECURED THE DISTRICT SUFFICIENTLY FOR AN ESTIMATED 5300 WAR VICTIMS TO RETURN HOME/ THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, HOWEVER, AN ESTIMATED 12,000 REFUGEES GENERATED BY RECENT FIGHTING REMAIN UNDER THE CARE OF SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE. AT THE END OF THE WEEK, VC/NVA FORCES WERE RENEWING PRESSURE IN AN PHUOC (V), KIEN TANH (D), BUT GVN NAVAW AND RF FORCES WILL CONTROL THE SITUATION.

(J) CENTRAL DELTA: ACTIVITY IN IEN HOA PROVINCE CONTINUED TO DECLINE, BUT TWO INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN BEN TRE, THE PROVINCE CAPITAL. AN EXPLOSION IN A COFFEE SHOP WOUNDED TWO SOLDIERS AND NINE CIVILIANS, AND B-40 ROUNDS HIT A MILITARY TRUCK ON ROUTE 6 AT THE NORTHERN EDGE OF TOWN, WOUNDING THREE RF. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, VC PRESSURE ON CAU KE (D) INCREASED. ONE OUTPOST IN AN PHU TAN (V) WAS ABANDONED AFTER HARASSMENT AND A GROUND ATTACK. CAU KE DISTRICT TOWN RECEIVED 18 ROUNDS OF 82MM BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. A GVN MULTI-BATTALION FORCE SCHEDULED TO MOVE INTO CAU KE HAS BEEN DELAYED. ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PROVINCE REMAINED AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE VC FURTHER EXPANDED THEIR CONTROL IN CENTRAL MINH DUC (D) BY OVERRUNNING AND DESTROYING AN OB IN BINH PHUOC (V), THREE ROUNDS OF 60MM WERE FIRED INTO A HAMLET OFFICE IN TAN PHONG (V), CHO LACH (D). THIS IS THE FIRST SHELLING IN CHO LACH THIS YEAR. TWO OTHER OB'S - ONE IN NGAI TU (V), TRA ON (D), THE OTHER IN MY AN (V), MINH DUC (D) - WERE ALSO ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE. IN SA DEC PROVINCE, THERE WERE SCATTERED MINOR CONTACTS IN DUC TON AND LAP VO DISTRICTS. TWO COMPANIES OF THE 857 VC LF BATTALION ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF DUC TON REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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A POTENTIAL THREAT TO 1400 QUANG TIN REFUGEES RECENTLY RESETTLED IN AN KHANH (V). IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE, TWO BATTALIONS OF THE 15TH REGIMENT/9TH ARVN DIVISION ARE NOW OPERATING IN PHUNG HIEP (D). ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, 6 OB'S - 4 IN PHONG THUAN, ONE IN CHAU THANH, AND ONE IN PHONG DIEN DISTRICTS - HAVE BEEN OVERRUN OR ABANDONED SINCE JULY 22. AN UNKNOWN VC/NVA UNIT HAS BEEN LOCATED NORTH OF PHONG DIEN DISTRICT TOWN WITHIN ROCKET RANGE OF CAN THO CITY AND BINH THUY MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(E) SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE RETURNED TO NORMAL AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING LAST WEEK. THERE WERE EIGHT GROUND ATTACKS, ALL REPULSED. TRA THE OB IN HOA TU (V), HOA TU (D) CONTINUED TO HOLD OUT AFTER SUSTAINING 10 SHELLINGS AND 4 ATTACKS

SINCE JULY 18. AN ATTACK ON THE VINH LOI VILLAGE OFFICE (NGA NAM DISTRICT) WAS ALSO REPULSED WITH 10 GVN WIA AND 23 VC/NVA KIA. BAC LIEU PROVINCE REPORTS THE SECOND INCIDENT ON A MAJOR LOC IN TWO WEEKS. LAST WEEK'S SITREP REPORTED AN ATTACK ON A PSDF POSITION ON HIGHWAY 4. THIS WEEK A SAMPAN CARRYING TROOPS WAS AMBUSHED ON THE HEAVILY TRAVELED VINH HUNG-LONG THANH CANAL. ONE RF WAS KILLED AND TWO OTHERS CAPTURED. THE LONG THANH (VINH LOI DISTRICT) SUB-SUBSECTOR COMMANDER WAS KILLED WHILE ON PATROL, THE FIRST REPORTED LOSS OF AN SSS COMMANDER IN BAC LIEU. IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT WAS A GROUND ATTACK AGAINST VINH PHUOC (V), KIEN HUNG (D), WHICH LEFT 2 GVN KILLED (NATIONAL POLICE), 1 MISSING, 4 WOUNDED, AND 16 VC/NVA KILLED. OTHER ACTIVITY CONSISTED CHIEFLY OF MINOR CONTACTS AND ABF'S, INCLUDING THE ROCKETING OF VI THANH AIRFIELD WHICH CAUSED NO CASUALTIES OR DAMAGE. ACTIVITY IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE OCCURRED MOSTLY IN UNPOPULATED AREAS OF OUTLYING DISTRICTS. COMMUNICATION WITH TWO OB'S IN HAI YEN DISTRICT WAS LOST LATE IN THE WEEK; BOTH ARE BELIEVED TO BE OVERRUN OR ABANDONED. A COMPANY OF THE 490 RF BATTALION HAS REINFORCED MUONG DUONG OB IN NORTHERN DAM DOI DISTRICT (SEE SITREPS OF JULY 9 AND 16). SINCE THE REINFORCEMENT, THERE HAS BEEN NO HARASSMENT OF RIVER TRAFFIC BETWEEN CAMAU AND DAM DOI DISTRICT TOWN.

2. ICCS ACTIVITIES: CITING FLOODED QUARTERS AND HEALTH HAZARDS, THE IRANIAN TEAM IN QUAN LONG, AN XUYEN (P) WITHDREW TO CAN THO PENDING PAHE ACTION TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS AT THE TEAMSITE. THE INDONESIANS REMAIN IN QUAN LONG.

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Message Attributes

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